

A THEORETICAL INTERLUDE

colonial and semicolonial countries. These defects were as follows: First, "these parties are still to a large extent organizations made of leaders. They have no local rank and file organizations. . . ." /Second, "as a rule, the influence of the Communist Parties . . . is based solely upon the personal influence of individual leaders of the Communist Party, but not upon the organizational activity of strong Communist factions. . . ." Third, "there is generally a lack of understanding among their leaders as to the proper tasks of the Communist Party and the other revolutionary organizations of their respective countries." "This question/" concluded Vassiliev, "the development of the Communist Parties as such, as Parties relying upon strong local organizations and factory nuclei, the carrying on of extensive ideological activity to clarify the role of the Communist Parties—this question is just now in the very center of the activities of the Communist International in the colonies"¹⁸

This debate was significant because it permitted the representatives of the East to air their opinions, and also because it influenced the ultimate formulation of the Theses. In the final stage of the Congress when Kuusinen presented the report of the Colonial Commission to the plenary session, he stated that his draft theses had been improved by amendments and addenda. Among them he listed as most important the following three:

- (1) A recapitulation of incidents of the revolutionary movement in colonial countries was inserted.
- (2) More concrete form was given to tactical questions, especially with regard to China, India, Egypt, and Indonesia.
- (3) Much was added to the chapter on immediate tasks of the Communist parties in various colonial and semicolonial

countries.

The report of the Colonial Commission was adopted unanimously by the Congress. It contained the "Theses on the Revolutionary Movement in the Colonies and Semicolonies/" which, in turn, constituted a part of the larger whole called the *Theses and Resolutions of the Sixth World Congress of the Communist International*.TM

The Colonial Theses were divided into four parts.

Part I, "Introduction," reaffirmed first of all the full validity of the

d_v p. 1361.

19 See Appendix no. VII.

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